REPRESENTATIONS.—*contd.*

No. 147.—Election to Local Bodies.
Mr. Bale Gowda, Kunigal Taluk.

MR. BALE GOWDA prayed that a law be enacted that candidates who intended to stand for election to a District Board or the Representative Assembly should deposit Rs. 300, and those that intended to stand as candidates for the Legislative Council, Rs. 500, and that if any candidate failed to secure at least one-fifth of the votes at the election, the earnest money deposited might be forfeited to Government.

MR. M. C. LINGE GOWDA supported the request.

THE DEWAN said that the matter was under consideration and orders would be issued before the next elections.

MR. S. C. MALLIAH enquired whether similar steps were proposed to be taken in connection with District Board elections also.

THE THIRD MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that that point had not yet been settled.

No. 140.—Amendment of the Municipal Regulation regarding the powers of Vice-Presidents.
Messrs. G. Channappa, Holalkere Taluk; and Gurusiddappa, Davangere Municipality.

MR. GURUSIDDAPPA prayed that the Municipal Regulation be amended so as to define the powers of the Vice-Presidents of Town and Minor Municipalities in the Regulation itself. He said that, at present, the duties of the Presidents and the Vice-Presidents had not been clearly laid down in the Regulation and in cases where there were misunderstandings between the President and the Vice-President, all public work would be at a standstill and the rate-payers' interests would thereby suffer. If the duties of these office-bearers were laid down in the Regulation itself, such a contingency could be averted.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that this was a matter in which the Municipal Councils concerned should frame rules or bye-laws.

MR. G. CHANNAPPA said that the Regulation provided for a delegation of powers by the President to the Vice-President, but did not lay down the particular powers that could be so delegated. He suggested that it was better to define the duties of the Vice-President also in the Regulation itself.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL stated that the delegation should be defined by the Municipal Councils and

not left to the personal discretion of the Presidents. Ordinarily it was understood that a Vice-President had all the powers of a President subject to certain kind of control and differentiation by the Council. But in respect of the powers to be specifically delegated, it was necessary that the Council should pass bye-laws.

No. 137.—Construction of a Railway from Kadur to Chikmagalur.

Messrs. B. Kesavaiah, Chickmagalur Municipality; M. L. Nagappa Setty, Indian Planting Interest ; M. Siddalingappa Setty, Chikmagalur Taluk ; and C. Subbanna Naik, Koppa Taluk.

MR. B. KESAVAIAH represented that while all other district headquarter towns in the State were connected by railway, Chikmagalur, the headquarters of the Malnad district of Kadur, was not favoured with railway communication though the district had been collecting the maximum rate of railway cess for the last 13 years under the orders of Government, for constructing the same. Sanction which had been accorded to the commencement of work for the construction of a railway was subsequently withdrawn in order to extend some of the already existing lines in other districts. The Government were not unaware of the disadvantages of the district and the consequential loss to the State for want of proper railway facilities. Though this point was being repeatedly represented in the House for over 25 years, Government had not been pleased to accede to it. He therefore earnestly prayed that the Government might be graciously pleased to sanction the construction of a railway line from Kadur to Chikmagalur and to commence the work immediately.

Continuing, he said that the district was paying the cess at 6 pies in the rupee and yet had not been given a railway, whereas many places which were not paying the cess were given that convenience. Kadur was a backward district, and deserved special consideration. Even the establishment that had been originally sanctioned for the purpose was transferred to work in connection with the Arasalu line. When His Highness the Maharaja visited Kadur in 1912, he was pleased to say that the question would be considered soon. It was the business of the Government to provide the district with a railway. The Malnad was suffering from depopulation. If a railway was given, people could take up lands for cultivation on an extensive scale, coming even from outside. He therefore requested that immediate orders should be passed in the matter. The District Board had about Rs. 8 lakhs for the

purpose and if more was required, they would take a loan from Government, promising to repay it in 25 years. If this request was granted, he said, all the three malnad districts would be materially helped.

MR. SIDDALINGAPPA SETTY asked why the Kadur District alone should be treated differently from all others.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL replied that the Kadur District also had its own railway.

MR. B. KESAVAIAH observed that the line to Birur was in the Malnad parts and was not put up in order to meet the needs of the Kadur District.

MR. SIDDALINGAPPA SETTY said that on a former occasion, Government had promised to put up a railway from Kadur to Chikmagalur and that this promise had not been redeemed.

THE SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL observed that the bulk of the trade of Chikmagalur was with the West Coast and not on the Mysore side and so the line would not pay. Government would be glad to consider the matter favourably if the traffic prospects were shown to be satisfactory.

THE THIRD MEMBER OF COUNCIL explained that the previous estimate was for Rs. 30 lakhs while the present one was for Rs. 21 lakhs. As the District Board was said to have about Rs. 8½ lakhs ready, the balance required would be about Rs. 12½ lakhs. On calculation it was found that the receipts would not amount to even the bare working expenses. It had been ascertained that every year there would be a loss of about Rs. 1½ lakhs. He was not sanguine of the prospects, on the figures given by the Railway Department. The District Board desired that 40 per cent of the losses should be borne by Government. This meant that the District Board would have to bear about Rs. 75,000 towards losses while their maximum cess collection was only Rs. 60,000.

MR. M. L. NAGAPPA SETTY replied that this calculation was not correct, because the anticipated income on account of expansion of trade had not been taken into consideration.

THE THIRD MEMBER OF COUNCIL promised that if this was so, he would examine the traffic prospects once again.

MR. KESAVAIAH stated that the Government were working some other lines at a loss, *e.g.*, the Arasalu line, and that the traffic prospects of the line under discussion need not therefore be gone into very much in detail.

MR. BASAPPA SETTY said that judging from the bus traffic now going on, there was no doubt that it would increase further if a railway was laid.

THE THIRD MEMBER, OF COUNCIL replied that bus traffic was a different matter, as it would continue whether or not a railway was constructed.

With regard to the question of trade referred to by the Second Member of Council, MR. KESAVAIAH said that except in coffee, the Kadur District had no trade with Mangalore. They were getting kerosine oil from Mangalore formerly and now, even that was being obtained from Dharwar. Latterly, even coffee was being sent to Madras.

MR. M. L. NAGAPPA SETTY observed that losses were anticipated only on account of the proposed importation of stones and tiles by rail.

MR. SIDDALINGAPPA SETTY asked whether Mysore City would have attracted such a large population but for all improvements effected, and whether a similar result could not reasonably be expected in the case of the Malnad also if it was properly developed.

MR. K. T. SESHIAH said that it was true that very short lines could not pay. He therefore suggested that the Mysore-Arsikere line be extended *via* Belur and on to Mudgere.

THE DEWAN replied that the question would be examined further.

DEWAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS.

GENTLEMEN,

I shall trouble the Assembly with very few words in closing this Session.

In the first place allow me on behalf of my colleagues and myself to express our sincere obligations to you for the spirit of friendliness, the desire to understand and help Government, which has characterised your utterances. I trust that you may never have any reason to change this attitude, for I need hardly tell you that it is the earnest desire of Government, by taking you completely into their confidence, to win the firm and well-informed support of yourselves and of the public whom you represent. May I add that we are always ready to listen to those who criticise our measures, and our Assembly and Legislative Council are, above all, the places where such criticism may legitimately be made ?

This is the last time that you meet. During the three years we have sat together and transacted business in this House, much has been achieved, and the foundations laid for much more. I say this in no spirit of boastfulness; it is, I hope, a matter of common knowledge, that our record is such that we may well be proud of it.

The two bills that were discussed at this Session—I mean the Elementary Education and the Irrigation Bills—were two of the most important measures that have ever been placed before this Assembly.. Let us hope that the Elementary Education Bill will stand the test of time and prove of lasting value. I am sorry that the Irrigation Bill met with much less support than it deserved in our opinion.

There was much discussion—and very interesting too—on the time-worn topic of prohibition. Let me make the position of Government quite clear on this point. Do not for a moment think that Government are against the real aims of the prohibitionists, that they would rather see people remain victims of this habit, than lose the revenue which they now derive from this source. Believe me, Government are as anxious as any one in the country to abolish the evil, but they have to look at the problem from two points of view. In the first place, (though perhaps this is not really so important) it must be remembered that a revenue of a crore or even more is involved. Are you prepared to forego this ? You must be prepared not only to lose the revenue which you now realise, but also to maintain a large establishment costing some lakhs of rupees annually, to enforce your policy. Otherwise you would be losing your revenue without gaining any compensating advantages. You thus stand to incur a double financial loss. The question next arises—are you quite sure that you will make people give up this habit by an "act of Parliament" so to say? Government doubt it. Arm-chair critics there are in plenty who take no account of practical difficulties. It is all very well for them to say that Government have only to do away with all liquor shops and the rest will follow as the night follows the day. This is just where we, as practical administrators, have to join issue with our friends. India is not a country like America or England where, perhaps, the prevention of illicit distillation and smuggling would be a comparatively easy matter. We believe that the best, because it is the most practical, policy is to hasten slowly, to educate the people to give up this habit, and to avoid placing temptation in their way.

Progress may be slow, but it will be more sure. This is the policy of Government and they are giving effect to it as far as possible. As an instance of the practical difficulties that confront Government, you will be interested to hear that some months ago, Government decided, in a philanthropic mood, to take away the ganja shops that had been opened in the Irwin Canal area. It was not long before they were faced with the alternatives of stopping the work or re-opening the shops. You need not be told what the department recommended and what Government agreed to do in the circumstances, and what you too, I venture to think, would have done if you had been in our place. Such are the practical difficulties in the way of a policy of prohibition. It is, on the one hand, a question of funds, and on the other, of the education and enlightenment of the people. In short, there seems to be no short cut to the goal.

I feel I must say a word on the Newspaper Regulation. There never was any intention on the part of Government to go back on the promise made to the Legislative Council. There has no doubt been some delay in introducing a draft bill, but that could not be helped. I need not remind this House that it expressed its strong disapproval of the proposal for the repeal of the Regulation when the subject was discussed here a year ago. Government are glad to note that in the present Session too it was, as far as they could judge, the unanimous view of the House—the mover of the resolution withdrew his resolution on that understanding—that a Press Regulation was both desirable and necessary in the State ; and that what the House wanted was that the present Regulation should be repealed and replaced by a less drastic measure. Government agree with this view, and will endeavour to draft a bill which, while it will tend to prevent the dissemination of grossly unfair criticisms of their policy and actions, will ensure to the press a reasonable measure of freedom.

The necessity of improving the lot of the inferior servants of Government has often been pressed by you on Government. I am glad to announce that Government have now been able to take satisfactory action in the matter. They have decided to abolish the distinction between superior and inferior servants in regard to the scale of gratuity admissible to them and to allow the latter a full month's pay for each year of service in the same way as in the case of superior servants. The minimum period of service for earning pension will be reduced from 30 to 15

years. For service of 15 years and above, the rules for the calculation of pension of inferior servants will be the same as for superior servants. The Military Pension Rules will similarly be revised so as to permit of the grant of one month's gratuity for each year of service up to 15 years and of pension thereafter. I am sure these concessions will be welcome to you and will be appreciated by those public servants whom they concern.

Some of the members complained, and very rightly, of the careless manner in which the voters' lists had been prepared in some places. I regret that this should have been the case. Let me assure the member that any repetition of such mistake will not be tolerated, and that every precaution will be taken to see that the lists are complete and accurate in every respect.

And now it only remains for me to say good-bye and to wish you all prosperity and happiness in your work and good luck to those who are about to offer themselves for re-election.

MR. K. SRIKANTIAH expressed the thanks of the House to the Dewan and the Members of Council for the patient hearing that was extended to the members throughout the session.

-He said that every one was glad that His Excellency the Viceroy had been pleased to accept His Highness the Maharaja's invitation to visit the State in November next. It was a privilege to welcome this august guest for a second time, and the subjects of His Highness had no doubt that His Excellency's stay in Mysore would be made as pleasant as possible.

He thanked the Government for having ordered the removal of certain disabilities which the inferior employees of Government were subjected to till now, in the matter of gratuity and pension.

He was sorry to learn that Sir M. Visvesveraya had resigned his Chairmanship of the Bhadravati Iron Works which was a pioneer basic industry in the State. He hoped, however, that even though Sir M. Visvesvaraya had resigned, his invaluable suggestions for the progress of the Works would always be available to the State. The House would be doing a duty in recording its sense of gratitude to this worthy son of Mysore for his selfless work all these years. He had no doubt about the success of the Works under the able and patriotic guidance of the First Member of Council who had since taken up the Chairmanship.

He concluded by saying that it was the prayer of the House that God be pleased to bless His Highness the

Maharaja as well as the other members of the Ruling House with long life and prosperity.

MR. B. S. PUTTASWAMY thanked the Dewan for the various important matters referred to in the Opening Address as well as in the Concluding Remarks and for the patient hearing extended to the members of the Assembly during the session. He was grateful to Government for their generous appreciation of the co-operation which the members had given them and for having overlooked any vehemence of language on the part of the members in their anxiety to bring their grievances and wants to notice.

He said that it was the prayer of His Highness' subjects that greater scope should be given to them for participating in the Administration and hoped that the day would soon come when the people themselves would be called upon to carry on the Administration. Government had realized that if this ambition on the part of the people was to be achieved, mass education was a necessary factor; and in order to provide them with this want they had very kindly introduced the Elementary Education Bill for which the subjects could not be sufficiently grateful. The members hoped that this Bill would immediately be passed into law and the scheme contemplated in it fully brought into effect within the next 5 years.

The fair name of His Highness had spread far and wide. The present was a time when the future destinies of Indian States and their place in the Indian polity were on the anvil. At such a time opinions were being expressed in British India that Indian States were a clog in the wheel of India's progress, and some of the Anglo-Indian papers went to the extent of carrying on a campaign of opposition to India's demand for self-government. So far as the position of Mysore in particular was concerned, some individuals were harming the interests of the State by magnifying a very small incident that had taken place some time back within the State. He was glad, at the same time, that there were unmistakable evidences of a general awakening on the part of the masses who were determined to give a lie direct to interested accounts that were published concerning Mysore affairs. They were determined also to do everything calculated to further the interests of the State and were prepared to lay down everything in their possession at the altar of the country's cause.

MR. M. VENKATAKRISHNAIYA observed that at the time of the inauguration of the Representative Assembly in

the year 1881, His Highness the Maharaja was pleased to say in his Proclamation that the Assembly's work should be so regulated as to secure a perfect identity of interest between the Ruler and the Ruled. That command was being loyally carried out in a large measure by his worthy successors, and for 40 years the Assembly had made rapid strides in the path of constitutional progress. In spite of the fact that the English constitution had undergone very many improvements from time to time, it had not yet reached an ideal state. Such being the case, it was a matter for the utmost satisfaction that the Mysore Representative Assembly had progressed beyond expectations and established many healthy conventions in regard to its own constitution.

The Opening Address and the Concluding Remarks of the Dewan had shown that there was much in the record of the State's achievements for the subjects of the State to be proud of. The member appealed to the Government to see that the Elementary Education Bill was passed into law and given effect to very soon. Other matters of great importance were the provision of good drinking water to every village and a guarantee of absolute protection to life and property, and a larger measure of peace and harmony in the State. He requested Government to provide these also in a larger measure.

The member appealed for very favourable consideration of the prayers of the people for the grant of responsible Government.

The Dewan and his colleagues had shown an extraordinary measure of patience in listening to the representations of the members. He would join with the previous speaker in offering the thanks of the House to them for having so generously overlooked any over-zealous observations or criticisms that might have been made by some of the members. He also prayed to the Almighty to shower upon His Highness the Maharaja and the Ruling House all that was best and happiest in life.

MR. M. C. LINGE GOWDA called for three cheers to the Dewan and the Members of Council; these were loudly responded to by the House.

The session then came to a close.

P. MAHADEVAYYA,
Ex-Officio *Secretary*,
Representative Assembly.

BANGALORE,
7th December 1929.